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**Recent Revolutionary Developments in the Strategic Arena of
Israel**

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ABSTRACT

At the beginning, I would like to share with you some knowledge, on recent developments, which took place within the political and strategic arena of the state of Israel. I am aware that it is probably not suitable to speak nowadays about the state of Israel without mentioning the political turmoil which is now taking place in Israel. This issue as much as it is important is not included here. Only one or two decades ago such developments were out of any imagination. However, in the course of history, at times, such developments are unpredictable. Hence, I anticipate that many of you will be overwhelmed by the information which I will share with you in this text. I have chosen to deal with the topic in a comprehensive manner, instead of dealing with only one issue in depth. The reason for this is my intention to demonstrate as broad a picture as possible in front of this forum.

For the purpose of a regimented analysis, the Israeli strategic arena should be divided into 5 demarcations:

The first one is the jurisdiction between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

The second demarcation includes four countries bordering directly with Israel. The first, Lebanon, actually had never presented a real strategic threat against Israel. Since the central Beirut government is, and also always has been, a weak entity, external powers like the PLO, or today the Hizbollah, could establish in southern Lebanon an illegal formation, within the state of Lebanon. In 1982 Israel liquidated the PLO colony in southern Lebanon and drove Mr Arafat and thousands of his followers far away to Tunisia. For some 10 years the border with Lebanon was quiet, until the Iranian Shiite envoys found a location for themselves in southern Lebanon. Hence today this is the most serious threat against the northern space of Israel. Until nowadays the Hizbollah activists are keeping quiet, since they lost a very big portion of their strength in the civil war at Syria, and in addition, the Israeli military maintains a substantial deterrence factor against the Hizbollah.

The second country, Syria, actually does not exist today as a unitary entity. There is no need to spend valuable time here on this issue. Everything is very well known to all. You should also know, that the mighty army created by Asad Senior, was massively damaged. Therefore it does not present today any strategic threat against Israel. As a matter of fact Israel crushed a North Korean Nuclear plant in Syria, and in addition Bombarded time and again Iranian facilities In Syria, without any response. It means that the Israeli deterrence, over Mr Assad junior and his Iranian supporters, is very effective.

The two other countries, within the second demarcation, are Jordan and Egypt. With Jordan Israel has a Peace treaty for the last 28 years. Actually since 1970, when the black September disaster in Jordan occurred, until today, the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan is shielded by Israel, with the cooperation of the USA. A similar situation now exists with Egypt, previously the biggest enemy of Israel. Egypt and Israel maintain, for already 43 years, a precious peace pact. As a matter of fact Israel and Egypt are at present fighting together against radical Islamic terror groups, that penetrated into the Sinai Peninsula.

The third Demarcation includes the distant periphery countries. There are also dramatic developments concerning relations between Israel with these countries. For example with Greece and Cyprus cordial relations had been developed. These even include mutual military maneuvers, which took place in locations within these two countries.

On the other hand with Turkey the bitter Marmara conflict has been solved. Surprisingly the bilateral business handlings between Turkey and Israel are growing steadily, in spite of the past bitter political conduct with President Erdogan.

Iraq, in the past, one of the Most Bitter enemies of Israel, is out of the anti Israeli game. The Americans destroyed the gigantic Iraqi military. The country itself is divided into "provinces". The Nordic one, the Kurdish, even maintains

positive connections with Israel. It is a long story. Probably it has to be dealt with in another presentation.

The ties with Saudi Arabia are warming up quickly, not because of Saudi love for Israel. Mutual anti Iranian interests bring these two countries together. It is a saga which is only in its beginning. Saudi left the anti Israeli club, and I do not see the Saudis join this club again. Recently new connections between Iran and Saudi-Arabia took place. It is yet early to evaluate this development and its influence on the strategies of Israel.

Concerning Libya, previously a bitter enemy of Israel and a substantial financier and military supporter of the PLO. Things had been changed downsides up. Its leader colonel Qadafi was murdered by rebels. Hence today Libya is out of the anti Israeli game.

Sudan, another previous enemy of Israel, did split into two parts. The southern part maintains very friendly relations with Israel. The same has happened with Eritrea, a country that had been created some 28 years ago after getting independence from Ethiopia. One can understand that the Israeli status in the red sea, and the ability of Israel to protect the city of Eilat, its southern sea port, and the freedom of sailing in the red sea, had been overwhelmingly improved.

Within the forth demarcation, the Super Powers, the development of the Israeli situation had been the most dramatic and significant of all.

The Connections with India and China are steadily warming up during the last two decades. Before hand there were almost no ties between Israel and these two giants. These two countries always supported the Arab side. Definitely they will not turn the other way around.

The Biggest Story of all, within the international Israeli arena, is the revolution regarding the relations between Israel and Russia. In the recent past, the Russians, or to be more precise, the Soviets, identified themselves completely with the Arab side. They supplied a fortune of military equipment to Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iraq and others. Tens of thousands of Soviet military experts were sent to these countries to train and maintain their military forces. The Soviets even participated in direct combats with Israelis.

To day the Russians maintain good relations with Israel, and even collaborate with Israel by adjusting operations in the Syrian civil war battle fields.

On the very special intimate relations between Israel and the United States there is no need to elaborate more at this point. I'm sure all of you are familiar with this issue. The same applies to the Israeli somehow problematic connections with the European community. Since our time is almost over, this can be an important topic for another talk.

The fifth demarcation, as I already mentioned at the beginning of this short lecture, are the fields of science and technology. Israel is a world leader within a few progressive scientific fields like Agriculture, Health, Nanotechnology, Military and Defense devices, Micro-Diagnostics, Micro-cardiology, Chemistry and Physics, avionics, software and cyber solutions, plant and floriculture genetics and more.

Israel is also keeping, at the national bank of Israel, a huge financial reserve of more than 210 billion US Dollars, as a result of an impressive export, which is creating a positive financial balance of the Israeli international trade.

All of the above mentioned and also those issues which were not mentioned due to time constrains, are definitely Signals Indicating that the Jewish State had already left its juvenile era behind, hence had been developed to become a mature, substantial and promising state, that is offering to its citizens an average GNP of more than 45,000 US \$ per capita per annum.